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Mission Trails Regional Park News

Volume 19 Number 2

Spring/Summer 2008

Valued Mission Trails Volunteers Recognized

Congratulations to our Mission Trails volunteers who were honored at the 13th annual awards event on Saturday, February 2, 2008. Myrna Bateman was named Volunteer of the Year for 2007. Myrna began volunteering at Mission Trails Regional Park in 2004. She is one of our many multi-talented volunteers. Her expertise ranges from being a Trail Guide, working in the Visitor Center to being a member of the volunteer patrol team. She is passionate about Mission Trails and has hiked every trail in the park. She is well-liked and respected by all volunteers, park rangers, and other City staff.

Other volunteers receiving awards for outstanding service in 2007 were Bob and Marge Amann, Visitor Center; Pat Fishtein, Gift Shop; Mary Mcilonie, Library; Bob Gordon, Patrol; Wendy and Terry

Volunteers, continued on p. 6



*Volunteer of the Year
Myrna Bateman*

City Cousin, Country Cousin

Many years ago, I followed an ongoing discussion in the letters section of an environmental newsletter about which benefitted the environment most, country living or city living. Proponents of cities would argue for a more centralized distribution of goods and services as well as a smaller footprint, per person, for living space due to apartment houses, condos and smaller acreage for homes. Those who preferred the country countered by saying fewer people made for healthier air quality, reduced the number of cars on the road, and engendered a more relaxed and comfortable lifestyle for country folk.

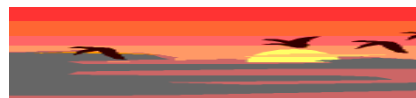
Another line of argument had to do with the distances people had to travel to get to work. Many people who worked in the city but lived in rural outlying areas had to commute long distances, using up fuel. People who lived in the city generally worked there as well and also had a mass transit system they could utilize. On the other hand, those living far from their jobs usually drove a short distance to a parking lot and boarded a commuter train.

There were numerous other examples by both sides of the argument that I can no longer recall, but I do remember

Cousins, continued on p. 3

Summer Twilight Walks

Join MTRP Trail Guides for free special interpretive walks at twilight this summer. Walks start from the Kumeyaay Lake Campground entry station and last approximately one and a half hours. Come and enjoy an evening walk in the park and learn about the changes that occur during dusk and evenings. Participation in these very popular walks will be limited to maxi-



mize your enjoyment, so sign up by phone or in person at the Kumeyaay Lake Campground Entry Station, 619-668-2748.

Saturdays:

June 21, 7:15 p.m.

July 5, 7:15 p.m.

July 19, 7:15 p.m.

August 2, 7:00 p.m.

August 16, 6:45 p.m.

September 20, 6:00 p.m.



A Message From Council President Pro Tem

Jim Madaffer

Congratulations to all of the volunteers who

were recently recognized for their outstanding contributions to Mission Trails Regional Park. It was a pleasure to participate in the Mission Trails Regional Park Awards Ceremony and help celebrate their achievements. I especially want to honor Myrna Bateman who received the Volunteer of the Year award.

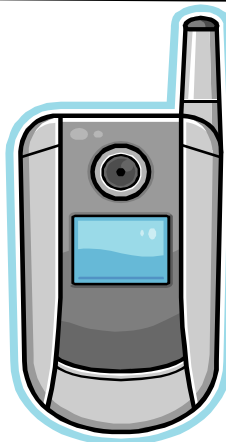
A cause for celebration is the completion of the Old Mission Dam Dredging Project. In order to protect the integrity of the historic dam, 750 cubic yards of silt that had built up behind the dam were removed. Now the water flows as it should with out impediment. It was a time consuming project and required the City of San Diego to obtain numerous permits from the City's Development Services Department, the California Department of Fish and Game, Regional Water Quality Control Board and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Many people were involved and saw this project through to completion. One of them was Michelle Abella-Shon who was project manager for the City of San Diego, and I want to publicly thank her for doing an outstanding job.

Other news to tell you about is the unnamed and unofficial street that serves as the entrance to the Equestrian (Multi-use) Staging Area. That will soon change. I'm guiding the City's efforts to officially designate that street as Equestrian Circle and have street signs installed. Stay tuned for more details.

As always, I welcome hearing your comments regarding Mission Trails Regional Park or any other issue. Call me at (619) 236-6677 or send an email to jmadaffer@sandiego.gov. I invite you to visit my Web site at JimMadaffer.com where you may sign up to receive my electronic newsletter. Thank you and best wishes.

We Need Your Help

Join the Mission Trails Cell Phone Patrol. Help us keep your park safe. Please, use your cell phones to report any suspicious behavior in or around our parking lots and facilities.



Rangers (9:00 am - 5:00 pm) call

619-668-3281

San Diego Police Dept. call

619-531-2000

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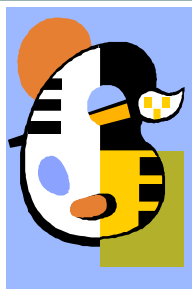
Hon. Larry Stirling
Superior Court Judge, retired
California State Senator, retired



Recycle your glass, plastic and aluminum at Kumeyaay Lake Campground. Containers are located in the day-use parking lot.

Art Exhibits

The Visitor Center Gallery has ongoing exhibitions of local area artists' works which can be purchased, with a percentage of the proceeds going to the MTRP Foundation.



**April 19, 2008 through
May 9, 2008**

**Pat Dispenziere
Watercolors, Near and Far**

Watercolorist and print-maker Pat Dispenziere was born and raised in Cleveland, Ohio. As a child she studied at the Cleveland

School of Art children's classes. Her college degrees of Bachelor of Fine Arts in ceramic art and Bachelor of Science in art education were earned at Ohio State University. Upon graduation, she taught art in the Midland, Michigan and San Antonio public schools.

After moving to California, Pat became a full-time professional artist. Her work has been displayed throughout the United States. Pat holds "Signature Status" with the following Art Associations: San Diego Watercolor Society, Watercolors West, California Watercolor Association and Arizona Aqueous. Signature Status is the highest achievement an artist may receive from an art organization. This honor indicates that the artist is a

Master painter with the right to use the organization's initials after his/her signature.

**May 12 - June 13, 2008
Sixteenth Annual Amateur
Photography Contest**

**June 14 - July 11, 2008
Maurjo Reser**

**July 12 - August 15, 2008
Barbara Siegal and
George Friedman**

All Exhibits are on view in the Mission Trails Regional Park Visitor and Interpretive Center Gallery daily from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00.

Cousins, *continued from p. 1*

the discussions being quite heated. What I also remember is what was occurring around me at the time. I was living in a farmhouse apartment located on a "farm" raising beefalo. It was quite a bucolic place and I loved living there. But, this was during a period when it was suddenly fashionable to eschew city life to go live in the country where it was safe and quiet, away from the hustle and bustle of the urban environment. Thousands of acreage of farmland was being "developed" into housing tracts of four or five acres. Eventually, even the farm where I was living was sold and developed. Families moved in to experience the good, healthy life.

What happened next was, I guess, to be expected. This mad rush to the country created this vacuum, which sucked with it much of what these people were running from. Malls both large and small started encroaching onto more and more of the landscape. One major four lane road once controlled by the occasional traffic light grew to

six lanes dominated by numerous traffic lights and overpasses. Needless to say, the mom and pop gas stations and businesses that lined the roadway had to go. Although many new roads were cut through pristine woodlands to connect growing communities, others were blocked by conservation laws and activists. Many country roads, that are major arteries, were kept from being widened due to strong protest from residents, but traffic on these roads inch along during rush hour.

The arguments for the environmental benefits of living in the city and the encroachment of urbanity into the country had a profound effect on my way of thinking. Having lived in the country most of my life, this country boy decided to move to the big city. I concluded that what we should be doing, as "Nature Lovers", was not to live in the country and encourage the spreading of asphalt and shopping, but to live in the city and encourage the spreading of gardens, parkland and open space. Make the city a place in which the country cousin would feel comfortable.

Roland Roberge

Book Your Next Meeting or Event at the Visitor Center

With its commanding view of Mission Gorge, the Mission Trails Regional Park Visitor and Interpretive Center is an exceptional location for your organization's next meeting, retreat or event.

If your group needs a quiet place to meet away from everyday distractions, or you need a unique and attractive space for your corporate or non-profit event, consider the MTRP Visitor Center.

During the day our classrooms are available for groups of up to sixty-five people. For evening events you may also reserve the spacious lobby/terrace, the interior theatre or the open-air amphitheater as well as the classrooms.

We may only book businesses, 501.3c non-profit organizations or government agencies. The Visitor Center is not available for commercial use or private functions such as birthday parties, weddings, baptisms, and memorial services.

For more information and to view our reasonable rates, go to <http://www.mtrp.org/booking.asp>. If you still have questions or want to book a space call, 619-668-3280.



Sixteenth Annual Amateur Photography Contest

Corrections: This year's Photo Contest will be on display May 12 through June 13, 2008 and will not end June 27 as previously announced. Also, the contest reception will be on June 1 and not June 22.

The 2008 Amateur Photo Contest will coincide with this year's Explore Mission Trails Day, May 17, 2008. All entries will be on display during this yearly event, which celebrates everything Mission Trails has to offer.

The photos will be exhibited in the gallery from May 12 through June 13. You are welcome to attend the Photo Contest Reception and Awards Ceremony on June 1, 2008 at 2:00 p. m.

Gift Shop

When in the Park, be sure to peruse the Visitor Center Gift Shop.

Besides our own "San Diego's Mission Trails Regional Park: Official Guide Book", you will find various books dealing with the geology, history and ecology of the San Diego region.

The gift shop also continues to carry crafts made by the local Native American people. Numerous, pots and baskets are available for your purchase and enjoyment.

Trail Guide Graduation Class of 2008

Welcome to our new graduates of the Mission Trails Regional Park Trail Guides program. The new graduates have been attending classes on Wednesday evenings and Saturday mornings the past 10 weeks to learn about the plants, animals, geology, and history of Mission Trails. They are eager to share their knowledge with the public; please join them on one of the up-coming Ecology Walks. See the Event Calendar for more information.

Members of the 2008 graduating class include Trent Robertson, Jill Calhoun, John Hanna, Amy Huff Shah, Parthiv Shah, Mika Shimada, Zandy Payton, Donna Jensen, Ted Grunt, Marysa Andriola, Brad Buxton, Lauren Baker, Nancy Clement, Christine Rychel, Caitlin McKinzie, Rachael Holland, Sylvia Sowadski, Kathleen Suros, and Pam Weinisch.

Thank you to the class instructors for their outstanding efforts. These dedicated Mission Trails volunteers include Bill Howell, Reva Block, Judy Alvarez, Dave Bailey, Winona Sollock, Wendy



Top row (l to r): Trent Robertson, Jill Calhoun, John Hanna, Amy Huff Shah, Parthiv Shah; middle row (l to r): Mika Shimada, Zandy Payton, Donna Jensen, Ted Grunt, Marysa Andriola, Brad Buxton; bottom row (l to r): Lauren Baker, Nancy Clement, Christine Rychel, Caitlin McKinzie.

Esterly, Bill White, Fred and Linda Kramer, and Ranger Heidi Gutknecht.

Mission Trails Regional Park has over 150 volunteers working in a variety of ways to maintain the park

and make educational programs available to the public. When on our web site, www.mtrp.org, go to "The Park" and then "Volunteer!" for more information about volunteer opportunities.

Join the Crew

MTRP has numerous volunteer opportunities for those who wish to get involved. If you enjoy working out doors, need a little exercise and don't mind getting your hands dirty, volunteering for one of our work crews may be right up your alley. The Trail Improvement Crew helps keep our fifty plus miles of trails in tip-top condition. If you prefer working with plants, the Habitat restoration Crew may have use of your talents. Don't forget the Park Beautification Crew if you like things clean and tidy. Each one of these crews is a good activity for your family or club. Come by on the dates and times listed below for some sun, exercise and satisfaction of having served your community.

Each crew meets by the flag poles in the Visitor Center parking lot at 8:00 a.m. Please bring work gloves and wear long pants and



A recent Park Beautification Crew in action

sturdy, closed-toe shoes. A hat, sunglasses and sunscreen are also recommended on sunny days. Water and donuts provided! For more information, please call (619) 668-3281.

Habitat Restoration Crew, 2nd Saturday of the month.
Trail Improvement Crew, 3rd Saturday of the month.
Park Beautification Crew, 4th Saturday of the month.

Sixth Annual Explore Mission Trails Day

Join park staff and volunteers on Saturday, May 17, 2008 for an all day celebration highlighting everything Mission Trails has to offer. This popular event will feature free interpretive walks, talks and programs throughout the park, including live animals and activities for children. An exhibition of this year's Annual Photo Contest will be on display at the Visitor and Interpretive Center. There will be free pony rides and children's crafts at the Equestrian Staging Area.

Explore Mission Trails Day is presented by Mission Trails Regional Park Foundation, City of San Diego Park and Recreation Department, City of Santee Community Services Department, San Diego City Councilmember Jim Madaffer, and Santee City Councilmember Brian Jones.

Funding is being provided by the following sponsors: **Media Sponsor** - KyXy 96.5. **Title Sponsors** - San Diego Landfill Systems, Pardee Homes, San Diego Gas &

Electric Company, Supervisor Pam Slater-Price and the County of San Diego. **Community Sponsors** - Olive Garden Italian Restaurants, Superior Ready Mix, Westfield Shopping Malls, Viejas Band of Kumeyaay Indians. **Pony Ride Sponsor** - Kaiser Permanente **Ms. Frizzle Sponsor** - Beckman Coulter Foundation. **Photography Contest Sponsor** - Barona Band of Mission Indians. **Neighborhood Sponsor** - Chipotle, Johnnie and Leslie Perkins, San Diego County Water Authority, Sudberry Properties, Inc.

Explore Mission Trails Day is presented by Mission Trails Regional Park Foundation, City of San Diego Park and Recreation Department, City of Santee Community Services Department, San Diego City Councilmember Jim Madaffer, Santee City Councilmember Brian Jones.

Explore Mission Trails Day sponsorship opportunities are still available. Please contact Mission Trails Regional Park Foundation at (619) 668-3280 for additional information.



Park Plan, continues from back cover

Plan section will be made at the July 1st CAC meeting and that the CAC will be reviewing the entire document at the meeting scheduled for September 2nd.

The CAC meetings begin at 6:30 PM and are held at the Visitor & Interpretive Center, One Father Junipero Serra Trail, San Diego 92119. The MTRP Task Force meets in the 12th floor conference at the City Administration Building, 202 C Street, at 12:15 PM. The public is invited to attend and make comments and recommendations regarding the proposed plan revisions.

An ad hoc subcommittee of the MTRP CAC has been working on the updates since January 2007. Subcommittee members include Dorothy Leonard, chair, Nancy Acevedo, Judy McCarty, Dick Murphy, and Senior Park Ranger Tracey Walker.

Thank you to our Business Friends

Allied Waste Services
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Casalinda Studio Designer Jewelry
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Del Mar Thoroughbred Club
Disneyland Resorts
Enhancery Jewelers
Holiday Bowl
Ideal Plumbing, Heating, Electrical
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Westfield Shopping Malls
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Notable Donations

January – March 2008

Steward - \$5,000 to \$10,000

San Diego Gas & Electric -
A Sempra Energy company
San Diego Landfill Systems

Patron - \$2,500 to \$5,000

Olive Garden Italian Restaurant
Superior Ready Mix Concrete, L.P.
Westfield Shopping Malls

Founder - \$1,000 - \$2,500

Beckman Coulter Foundation
Generic Events
Family and Friends –
In memory of Rick Gadler
Mary Louise Glanz
Kaiser Permanente
Judge Larry and Linda Stirling
Marie Tuthill

Path Finder - \$100-\$500

Joe and Nancy Acevedo
John and Ann Aydelotte
Ed Barber
Vickie Brunk
Ted Daub
Gloria Giolzetti
Mary Jo Grubbs
Fred and Bobbi Hammack
Stephen and Mary Jane Harris
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Maurice Pessot and Roni Breite
Lynn M. FizerJodi Roisman
Dan and Katie Sullivan
Nancy and Dennis Wilson
David D. Wynn, D.D.S.

Volunteers, continued from p. 1

Esterly, Trail Guide; Robert Graham, Habitat Restoration Crew; Grady Gardner, Trail Restoration Crew; and James Brisbin, Park Beautification Crew. Recognition plaques provided by Mission Trails Regional Park Foundation and a certificate of recognition from San Diego City Councilmember Jim Madaffer were presented to each of these outstanding volunteers.

Volunteers were also recognized for their hours and years of service. Most recorded volunteer hours were Betty Neill, 753 hours, Myrna Bateman, 355 hours, and Pat Fishtein, 300 hours. Betty received a VISA gift card while Myrna and Pat received restaurant gift cards.

Five year service awards were presented to Mary Jo Grubbs, Teresa Pollock, Cara Furio, Linda Gilbreath, Lois Day, Judy Lemon, Jim and Joanne Holman.

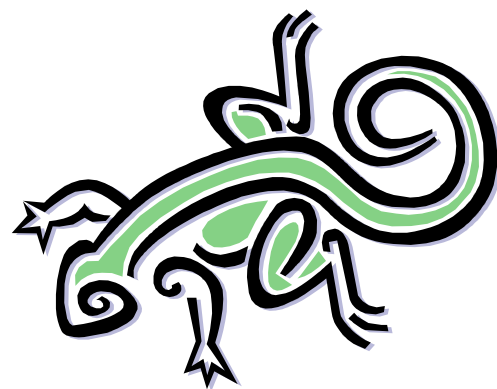
Ten year service certificates were presented to Nancy

Varga, Sally Kotnik, Muriel Splitgerber, and Gordon Patty.

Mission Trails Regional Park Foundation extends sincere thanks to our 2008 door prizes contributors.

Arely's Bakery
Cheer's Deli
Chula Vista Nature Center
Einstein Bros Bagels - Friars Road
Einstein Bros Bagels - Lake Murray Blvd.
The Fish Merchant
Lauren Baker
Megan's Cafe
Mission Trails Regional Park Gift Shop
Office Depot
The Original Golden Bagel Cafe
Pietro's Cucina Italiana & Pizza
Viejas Enterprises
West Coast Barbecue and Catering
Windy's Flowers

The annual volunteer awards event is sponsored by Mission Trails Regional Park Foundation and the City of San Diego Park and Recreation Department.



Support Mission Trails Regional Park



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Ways you can donate to Mission Trails Regional Park Foundation

The Mission Trails Regional Park Foundation Board of Directors extends sincere thanks to our many donors. It is owing to your continuing support that we are able to fulfill our Mission - *In partnership with the City of San Diego, to preserve and protect the natural environment of Mission Trails Regional Park and to provide and promote educational and recreational opportunities.*

In addition to traditional cash donations, there are other ways you can provide short and long-term financial support for park programs and projects.

Memorial or In Honor Of gifts

Honor a friend or family member with a donation.

Matching Funds

Identify Mission Trails Regional Park Foundation for a matching funds contribution if your employer

has a policy of matching charitable gifts.

Wills

Remember Mission Trails Regional Park Foundation in your will.

Gifts of Securities

In order to allow donors to realize full tax deductions for appreciated stock, Mission Trails Regional Park Foundation accepts gifts of stock. Please call (619) 668-3280 for further details.

Charitable Remainder Trusts

With a CRT, highly appreciated assets are placed in an irrevocable trust. Those asset proceeds provide income to the donor and/or to his/her beneficiaries for life. Contact your financial advisor for information.

The Foundation's Special Funds include education and library funds, trail and tree/habitat maintenance funds, education and library endowment funds. Call (619) 668-3280 for further information. - MTRP Foundation Federal Tax ID number 33-0285093.

Mission Trails Regional Park Donor Opportunities

Mission Trails Regional Park Foundation provides opportunities for individuals, businesses, community organizations and foundations to support a variety of programs and projects within Mission Trails Regional Park. Thank you to our many friends who make annual contributions to Friends of Mission Trails Regional Park. A variety of donor opportunities are available as indicated below. All contributions are tax deductible. Names of contributors of \$1,000 or more will be engraved on a plaque permanently displayed at the park Visitor and Interpretive Center. Donations of \$100 and above will accumulate from year-to-year for contributor recognition purposes.

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____
 Home Phone _____ E-mail _____

Donor Levels

\$25 Individual _____	\$1,000 Founder _____	\$25,000 Benefactor _____
\$50 Family _____	\$2,500 Patron _____	\$50,000 Trustee _____
\$100 Path Finder _____	\$5,000 Steward _____	\$100,000 Director _____
\$500 Trailblazer _____	\$10,000 Sponsor _____	Other _____

Special Funds

Please check fund(s) for which you wish your donation to be used.

General Park Support	_____
MTRP Foundation Endowment	_____
Education Program Fund	_____
Library Fund	_____
Library Endowment Fund	_____
Tree & Habitat Maintenance	_____
Trail Maintenance	_____
Lake Murray	_____

Make check payable to MTRP Foundation and send to:
 Mission Trails Regional Park Foundation, Attention Secretary/Treasurer
 One Father Junipero Serra Trail, San Diego, CA 92119-1008

Charge my donation to VISA _____ MC _____
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 Expiration date _____ Signature _____

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**Mission Trails
Regional Park Foundation**

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Web Site: www.mtrp.org

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Volume 19 Number 2 Spring/Summer
Mission Trails Regional Park News

Mission Trails Regional Park Foundation, Inc., established in January 1988, is a non-profit public benefit corporation organized for the purpose of preserving, improving and maintaining Mission Trails Regional Park.

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*Editor: Roland Roberge
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GO TO <http://www.mtrp.org/newsletter.asp>

1985 Mission Trails Regional Park Master Development Plan to be Updated.

The Mission Trails Regional Park Citizens' Advisory Committee (CAC) and Task Force are in the process of reviewing and making recommendations to update the 1985 Mission Trails Regional Park Master Development Plan. The text of the 1985 Plan, along with recommended changes, can be found on the Mission Trails Regional Park web site at www.mtrp.org/master_plan.

The CAC has reviewed and given conceptual approval to the Lake Murray, Cowles Mountain, Mission Gorge and Fortuna Mountain sections. These sections will be considered by the Task Force at the May 21st meeting.

The Introduction, Planning and Implementation sections will be presented at the May 6th CAC meeting with a recommendation that Planning and Implementation be combined into one section. It is anticipated that recommended changes to the Overall Master



Mission Gorge

Park Plan, continued on P. 6